

THE LONE STAR STATE.

Prof. Frederick W. Gross a Representative Son—Who Has Held Many Important Places of Honor and Trust. A Power in the U. B. F. and a Most Successful Financier.

Prof. Fred W. Gross, the subject of this sketch article, was born and reared at Marshall, Texas and attended both public and private schools of that place. He studied at Wiley University, Marshall, as early as 1873; and in 1879 he studied at Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn. In 1881 Bishop College was established at Marshall, Texas, and he at once matriculated as student-teacher



PROF. FREDERICK W. GROSS.

and held a responsible relationship to the school up to the time of his graduation. He graduated from this college in 1885 taking a full and complete course receiving the A. B. degree.

Mr. Gross has been secretary of some denominational organization or benevolent society since 1880, and is now familiarly known and is sometimes called "the natural born secretary." His clerical attainments have not been surpassed in this state.

I shall now enumerate a few of the local organizations of which he has been or is now secretary and confined only to this state: Louisiana District Association (East Texas), State Sunday School Convention, State Colored Man's Conference, and Grand Secretary of the U. B. F. of Texas, for ten years, and has collected for them \$58,000, and has paid out to widows and orphans \$45,000 within eight years. Mr. Gross is a very fine collector. His tenacious adherence to business methods coupled with innate geniality have worthily caused him to be called the U. B. F.'s financier.

His services in the state being so satisfactory, it was noised abroad and has twice resulted in his unanimous election to the high and honored position of National Grand Secretary of the National Grand Lodge of America and Africa. He has succeeded through financial reports, minutes, the National Gazette in making the office very popular with the people. His reports are clear, systematic and models of accuracy; and if sufficient time be given the National Grand Lodge will liquidate the present debt and will have a nice balance to its credit, as Mr. Gross has shown himself to be an adept accountant and a financier of rare ability. I remember with a great deal of clearness the financial embarrassments that the Grand Lodge of Texas used to suffer ere he was called to the clerical management of its affairs. Today the checks issuing from the Grand Secretary's office will be honored by any commercial house.

The Mutual Aid Department, of which he is manager, is in a very

healthy condition due to his persistence and untiring efforts in the discharge of the arduous functions of the office. He has made by numerous designs and blanks to facilitate the dispatch of business, the U. B. F. institution a cynosure for similar institutions in this state, and through his influence and recommendations all sinister offices have been discontinued. Displaying such wonderful ability from a clerical standpoint his friends wished to test his aptitude as presiding officer and parliamentarian; hence the church of his choice elected him, in 1895 at Houston, to the presidency of its missionary and educational work, in this state, by a unanimous vote; and he has ever since succeeded himself without opposition.

He is a school teacher by profession and has been in the front ranks for nearly fifteen years having been (as a beginning) appointed conductor of a normal school for teachers of color by Hon. B. M. Boker, state Superintendent of Public Instruction, as far back as 1883; and his impetuous steps have landed him upon the loftiest pinnacle in the gift of the Texas teachers. Mr. Gross has filled with credit to himself every position in the Colored Teachers' State Association from assistant secretary up to president of Principals' Division, and president of the General Association of Texas Teachers. He enjoys the distinguished honor, at present, of being the president of the General Association of Texas Teachers.

Although he has taught school for more than twenty years he has lived in but two towns—Marshall and Victoria; and at the latter place he is now principal of the High School and supervisor of the schools of the district.

Mr. Gross is a candidate for re-election as National Grand Secretary of the National Grand Lodge of the U. B. of F. which meets at Cleveland, Ohio, July 9, 1900. He is preparing a very elaborate statistical report to be presented to the next National Grand Lodge covering every species of information appertaining to the successful engineering of the institution. He will probably attend the National Republican Convention at Philadelphia, which convenes on the 19th of June.

Mr. Gross is very reticent and unassuming in manner, and a casual glance at him without becoming acquainted with his personality would most invariably fail to fathom his true character. I have known him for eighteen years, and we have been friends the same number of years; though often our opinions would be diametrically antagonistic to each other; nevertheless, our ardent friendship has existed without fluctuation. I have always found him true and unswerving in loyalty to his friends. Just as I close I hear that he has been elected president of Houston Academy, Houston, Tex.

CHAS. H. GRIGGS,

Prin. of High School and Supervisor of City Schools.

A MAN OF THE PEOPLE.

(Continued from first page.)

re—a statesman and a laborer, an oracle and a patriot. Col. Torrey's military magnetism will thrill anew the "boys" who fought at Gettysburg and Santiago, and will give to the impending conflict that delightful flavor of adventure that will carry the "first voters" into the Republican camps and cause the veteran's step to take on the springiness of youth. With McKinley and Torrey there would be no doubtful States in the North, and it is not extravagance of utterance to say that even Missouri, honeycombed as she is with old-school Democracy, can be loosed from her moorings, and Nebraska will come into our columns in the same way that Maine went for Governor Kent. In the State of Wyoming and in

those in which free silver claims its greatest strength, Col. Torrey has a personal following sufficient to draw away enough ballots from the Demo-Populist combine to "beat it to the standstill." There is every argument in favor of Col. Torrey's nomination for Vice-President at Philadelphia. There are none that can be urged against it. Why not, then, do the wisest thing and place him on the ticket?

Jay L. Torrey as a Vice-Presidential candidate would need no introduction to the country. No one will be required to vouch for him, either as to capability or honesty. He has been nominated for office before, and always ran ahead of his ticket. He has had a plenitude of experience as a presiding officer, and is a past master in the art of pouring oil on the troubled waters of debate.

He is in the prime of a robust manhood—forty-seven years of age—just old enough to be wise and young enough to be enthusiastic.

He is a self-made man, inheriting no money, but has won friends, finance and fame by the judicious exercise of his God-given talents. When a man has succeeded in a business and in a professional way for himself he can be safely intrusted with the Government's interests.

He stands firmly for all the great moral principles with which the Republican party is identified. He is the one man whose happy address, imposing physique and convincing oratory would be such a tower of strength on the stump as to meet and throw down the eloquent and persuasive Mr. Bryan.

He began life as a newspaper carrier in St. Louis. The press will take care of Col. Torrey—and the voice of the press is the voice of God. It is the people's mouthpiece.

He has ideas—not mere "notions." To be sure, men with ideas are plentiful in the abstract; but men with new ideas are few; men with new ideas that are practical are still fewer; in fact, so rare that those a century produces may be speedily counted.

Fellow Republicans, who assemble next week in the classic Quaker City, your season of doubt may now end. The strongest man for the Vice-Presidency has been found. You can accept Jay L. Torrey without question. A typical American, aggressive, yet generous; sturdy, yet genial; courageous, yet cautious; frank, yet discreet; a thorough-going, upright Christian gentleman. It is our judgment that he be taken—for the popular weal. It would mean a campaign of snap, vigor and enthusiasm—a clean, wholesome canvass, in which scandal or abuse, explanation or apology would have no place. McKinley and Torrey are a vote-getting combination!

The above biography of Col. Jay L. Torrey will appear in The Colored American, Washington, D. C., June 16, 1900.

Southeast News.

Miss Leah Miles was the recipient of quite a pleasant surprise party last Thursday night by members of Troop "A" of the Enon Baptist Church. The members of the Troop accompanied by a number of friends assembled at the home of Mrs. L. Stewart, 10th and C streets, southeast, where after exchanging courtesies they repaired to the home of Miss Miles. Rev. J. I. Loving made the presentation on behalf of the Troop, to which Miss Miles fittingly responded. Among the many present were the following: Miss H. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Ragland, Misses Allman, Stewart, M. L. Robinson, and Messrs. Chapman and E. F. Fisher.

Mr. James Tinney, a member of one of Capitol Hill's best known families is dangerously ill at the family home, 308 8d street, southeast.

Miss Mary Hampton, of 406 5th street, southeast, has so far recovered from her recent illness as to be able to resume her duties at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving.

In the list of graduates of a class in needle work at University Park Temple published in The Colored American last week the name of Miss Marie Antoinette Lewis was omitted. Miss Lewis graduated in this class.

An exhibition of the Manual Training School of the 9th, 10th and 11th Divisions began yesterday and continues today at 628 H street, northwest. It will be open today from 9 a. m. to

6 p. m. and those who have the time to attend will see many things that will interest them.

Rev. B. B. Robinson of The Alexandria Leader, writes us to the effect that the Charles B. Cheshire mentioned in the last issue of The Colored American as doing some crooked work in Wilmington, Del., is not in any way connected with the John Hay Industrial School at Alexandria, Va. Mr. Robinson is president of the school named.

J. S. Keence is now giving his full time to the direction of the famous Delmo Koonce cafe in the Odd Fellows' Hall Building. Mr. Koonce has the finest banquet hall in this section of the country for the accommodation of Afro Americans.

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